

10/645,297

P-5687-C1-C1

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application and entry of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Office Action mailed March 25, 2004 addressed claims 1 to 18. Claims 1 to 18 were rejected. A Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment was mailed July 30, 2004. The notice stated that the claims from the Preliminary Amendment of August 21, 2003 were not presented. Applicants thank the Examiner for her assistance in responding to this Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment.

Applicants respectfully submit that two Preliminary Amendments were filed on August 21, 2003 with the filing of the present continuation application. One Preliminary Amendment, which is actually dated August 21, 2003, amended the specification by updating the priority claim. The second Preliminary Amendment, which is dated December 1, 2000, is a copy of a Preliminary Amendment filed in the parent application, Serial No. 09/729,554, filed December 4, 2000. This second Preliminary Amendment was inadvertently included with the present application. Applicants respectfully submit that the Preliminary Amendment of December 1, 2000, which canceled claims 1 to 18 and added new claims 19 to 43, was presented in error, and Applicants respectfully request that this Preliminary Amendment not be considered. Applicants would prefer to have claims 1 to 18 examined at this time, as these are the claims that were examined in the Office Action of March 25, 2004, and the claims for which Applicants responded in the Amendment of June 25, 2004. Applicants apologize for any confusion caused by the inadvertent submission of the Preliminary Amendment.

The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney if it is deemed that a telephone conversation will hasten prosecution of the application.

10/645,297

P-5687-C1-C1

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the presently rejected claims, claims 1 to 18. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1 to 7 and 9 to 18, the claims currently pending.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 10, 2004

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